

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph after the title on page 1 as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation application of allowed parent application serial no. 10/189,232, which claims priority to Japan 2001-206500 filed on July 6, 2001, Japan 2002-162122 filed on June 3, 2002, and Japan 2002-177500 filed on June 18, 2002, the entire contents of each application being incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 25 and continuing onto page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--There are psychoacoustic parameters as physical quantities quantities for evaluating the tone quality. The representative parameters are as described below (unit is shown in the bracket). (For example, see "Seventh Lecture of Design Engineering/System Section, Design for the 21st century, Aim at innovative progress of the system!", The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, November 10 and 11, 1997, "Sound and Vibration and Design, Color and Design (1)" Section No. 089B.)

* Loudness (sone): Size of audibility

* Sharpness (acum): Relative distribution quantity of high-frequency component

- * Tonality (tu): Tunability, relative distribution
of pure sound component

* Roughness (asper): Rough feeling of the sound

* Fluctuation strength (vacil): Fluctuation strength,
beat feeling.

And, other than the above, there has been proposed an equipment instrument capable of measuring the psychoacoustic parameters, such as:

- * Impulsiveness (iu): Impact property
- * Relative approach: Fluctuation feeling.

All the parameters have a tendency that with an increase of the value, the discomfort increases.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Therefore, a model for estimating the difference in the evaluation can be obtained by performing the multiple regression analysis, designating a difference in grade as an objective variable and a difference in a plurality of physical property values (sound pressure level, psychoacoustic parameters, ppm value) as an explanatory variable group. In short, there can be obtained such a model that by inputting the physical quantities quantities which the two sounds to be compared have, a difference in discomfort of the two sounds is output by a numerical value.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 56, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this embodiment, the sample noise was processed, particularly using the noise on the front side of the image formation apparatus. ~~The reason why the~~ The noise on the front side is used because ~~is that~~ the backside of the image formation apparatus is often installed along the wall face of the office; ~~and as a result, frequently, the people is~~ As a result, people are frequently present on the front side where the operating section is located.--